

COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS WITH AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A music-content using apparatus comprising:

a hardware communication interface that acquires original music content;

a programmed processor that is programmed to perform:

a replicated content generation step ~~for~~of generating new music content on the basis of replication of the original music content acquired via said hardware interface;

an additional information generation step ~~for~~of generating additional information including information indicating that the generated new music content is based on replication and replication source information identifying a replicated-from source at which the original music content is located; and

an appending step ~~for~~of appending the generated additional information to the generated new music content.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A music-content using apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said replicated content generation step replicates the original music content and generates, as the new music content, the replicated music content that comprises a replication of at least some of substance data of the original music content.

Claim 3 (original): A music-content using apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein the new music content comprises a replication of all of the substance data of the original music content.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A music-content using apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said replicated content generation step replicates the original music content and performs editing to change at least some of substance data of the replicated music content, to thereby generate, as the new music content, the replicated music content that includes at least the substance data changed by the editing.

Claim 5 (original): A music-content using apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein the new music content includes, as its substance data, only the substance data changed by the editing.

Claim 6 (original): A music-content using apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein the new music content does not include the substance data not changed by the editing, and a storage location of the new music content is indicated by the replication source information included in the additional information added to the new music content.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A music-content using apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the new music content generated by said replicated content generation ~~section~~step includes a management data region and substance data region, and the additional information generated by said additional information generation step is stored in the management data region.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A music-content using apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the programmed processor is further programmed to perform:

a search step ~~for searching~~of searching the acquired original music content on the basis of the replication source information included in the additional information; and

a use step ~~for~~of permitting the use of the new music content only when the original music content has been successfully found by said search step.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A music-content using apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~which further comprises, further comprising:~~

a storage medium that stores music content,

wherein said programmed processor is further programmed to perform an encryption step ~~for~~of encrypting, with medium information specific to said storage medium, music content to be stored in said storage medium and then storing the encrypted music content in said storage medium.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A music-content using apparatus comprising:

a hardware-communication interface that acquires music content including additional information added thereto, the additional information including information indicating that the music content is based on replication and replication source information identifying a replicated-from source at which the music content is located;

a programmed processor that is programmed to perform:

a search step ~~for~~of searching original music content on the basis of the source information included in the additional information added to the music content acquired via said hardware interface; and

a use step ~~for~~of permitting the use of the acquired music content only when the original music content has been successfully found by said search step.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A music-content using apparatus as claimed in claim 10 wherein the music content acquired via said hardware-communication interface includes a management data region and substance data region, and the additional information is stored in the management data region.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A music-content using apparatus as claimed in claim 11 wherein, in the substance data region, there are included substance data of the acquired music content that comprise a replication of at least some of substance data of the original music content.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A music-content using apparatus as claimed in claim 11 wherein, in the substance data region, there are included substance data of the acquired music content obtained by changing at least some of substance data of the original music content.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A music-content using apparatus as claimed in claim 13 wherein said programmed processor is further programmed to perform the step of acquiring the at least some of substance data from the original music content found by said search step, when-if the use of the acquired music content is being-permitted and if the at least some of substance data of the original music content are not included in the substance data region of the acquired music content; ~~said use step acquires the at least some of substance data from the original music content found by said search section.~~

Claim 15 (currently amended): A music-content using apparatus as claimed in claim 10, further comprising which further comprises:

a storage medium that stores music content; and

wherein said programmed processor is further programmed to perform an encryption step ~~for-of~~ encrypting, with medium information specific to said storage medium, music content to be stored in said storage medium and then storing the encrypted music content in said storage medium.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program having a group of instructions for causing a computer to perform a music-content using method, said music-content using method comprising:

an acquisition step ~~for~~of acquiring original music content;

a replicated content generation step ~~for~~of generating new music content on the basis of replication of the original music content acquired via said acquisition step; and

an additional information generation step ~~for~~of, when said replicated content generation step generates the new music content, generating additional information including information indicating that the generated new music content is based on replication and replication source information identifying a replicated-from source at which the original music content is located,

wherein the additional information generated by said additional information generation step is added to the new music content generated by said replicated content generation step.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 16, said method further comprising:

a search step ~~for~~of, when the new music content is to be used, searching for the original music content on the basis of the replication source information included in the additional information; and

a use step ~~for~~of permitting use of the new music content only when the original music content has been successfully found by said search step.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program having a group of instructions for causing a computer to perform a music-content using method, said music-content using method comprising:

an acquisition step ~~for~~of acquiring music content including additional information added thereto, the additional information including information indicating that the music content is based on replication and replication source information identifying a replicated-from source at which the music content is located;

a search step of searching ~~for~~of original music content of the acquired music content on the basis of the replication source information included in the additional information added to the music content acquired via said acquisition step; and

a use step ~~for~~of permitting use of the acquired music content only when the original music content has been successfully found by said search step.